

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00852 291449Z

44

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 IOE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SPM-01

AGR-20 FEA-02 INT-08 DRC-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W

----- 022584

P R 291200Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 736

INFO USUN NEW YORK 321

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS COLOMBO 852

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ECAFE

SUBJ: ECAFE: AMB FERGUSONS SPEECH - ITEM 4 AGENDA

REF: COLOMBO 814

1. FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL TEXT ADDED AT LAST MINUTE TO
AMB FERGUSON'S SPEECH REPORTED REFTEL. QUOTE - THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT WILL INTENSELY STUDY MME BANDARANAIKE'S
INITIATIVE TO RESOLVE THE FERTILIZER PROBLEM. WE FULLY SHARE
HER VIEW THAT THIS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM OF PARTICULARLY SEVERE
IMPACT ON ASIAN ECONOMIES. WE ALSO AGREE WITH HER THAT IT
IS AN ACUTE PROBLEM NOW. IN FACT, WE ARE REASONABLY
OPTIMISTIC OF A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF SUPPLY
OF FERTILIZER IN THE LONG RUN. THE PROBLEM IS WHAT CAN BE
DONE IN THE SHORT RUN, GIVEN THE SUPPLY BOTTLENECK WHICH IS
THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THE SHORTAGES AND THE MAJOR CAUSE OF
RISING PRICES. THE FACT IS THAT LIMITATION OF SUPPLY IS THE
SHORT RANGE PROBLEM. WE SHARE THE PRIME MINISTERS OBJECTIVES
OF DOING EVERYTHING THAT WE CAN TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF
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FERTILIZER AVAILABLE AT REASONABLE PRICES. I CAN ASSURE HER

AND THIS DISTINGUISHED ASSEMBLY THAT MY GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING
INTENSELY THE PROBLEM AND ALL SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS INCLUDING HER
MOST RECENT INITIATIVE. MY GOVT, THE UNITED STATES, WILL
DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER AND IN COLLABORATION WITH ALL OTHER
COUNTRIES TO FIND THE BEST AND SPEEDIEST SOLUTION TO THIS PRESS-
ING ISSUE. TOWARD THIS END, SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS ALREADY
ANNOUNCED - THE LAST MONTH - THE WILLINGNESS OF THE UNITED STATES
OT SHARE ITS TECHNOLOGY IN THIS FIELD WITH ALL OTHERS STRIVING
FOR SOLUTIONS TO THIS MOST URGENT PROBLEM. IT IS URGENT
BECAUSE WE CAN LITERALLY COMPUTE THE LIVES LOST TO STARVATION
AND MALNUTRITION IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF TONS SHORT-FALL
IN PETROLEUM-BASED FERTILIZER. END QUOTE.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

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